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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

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Overall orientation

16.1 The programme is under the responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

16.2 Acting in its dual role as regional outpost of the United Nations and part of its regional institutional landscape, ECE will continue to pursue the key objectives shared by all the regional commissions, namely, to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental gaps among their member countries and subregions. To achieve these objectives, all regional commissions, through their convening power, will continue to generate multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking at the regional level, and will work together to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation, both among themselves and through collaboration with other regional organizations.

16.3 Taking into account the role of the regional commissions as expressed above and the goals and commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the main objectives of the ECE work programme for 2012-2013 will be (a) to support the integration of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as South-East Europe into the pan-European economy, taking into account the enlarged European Union and the various integration initiatives under way in the eastern part of the region, (b) to improve the quality of life and to contribute to the sustainable development of the region, including in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and (c) to enhance competitiveness, in particular in the emerging market economies and low income countries of the region, thereby contributing to their economic prosperity. ECE will engage and promote partnerships among all public and private stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

16.4 The ECE programme of work, in accordance with the strategic directions provided by member States through the 2005 workplan on ECE reform (E/ECE/1434/Rev.1) that were reaffirmed by the Commission at its sixty-third session in 2009 (decision A/63, E/ECE/1453), is designed around eight subprogrammes, namely, economic cooperation and integration, environment, housing, land management and population, statistics, sustainable energy, timber and forestry, trade and transport. The core strategy focuses on (a) the implementation of existing legally binding instruments, norms, standards and guidelines as well as negotiation of new ones based on the needs of member States, (b) the provision of technical assistance, policy advice and capacity-building to support the implementation of these norms and standards by countries with economies in transition and (c) the organization of policy debate and exchange of experience in the areas of ECE expertise, including supporting policy analysis, studies and statistics.

16.5 ECE normative work will promote greater regulatory compatibility among its member States. It will therefore stimulate transboundary cooperation, particularly in the areas of transport, trade facilitation and environmental protection. This transboundary cooperation will also contribute to the region's stability and security.

It will also have a positive impact on the rest of the world, as many ECE-developed agreements and standards are increasingly being applied in countries of other regions.

16.6 Particular attention will also be given to cross-sectoral issues, in particular sustainable development, which requires the engagement of the energy, environment, housing, timber, trade and transport sectors. Further, ECE will promote gender mainstreaming in its relevant areas of activity and, as a whole, will address the gender dimension of development through the economics of gender.

16.7 Policy debate and exchange of experience among ECE member States will facilitate the identification of policies and good practices conducive to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

16.8 ECE technical cooperation activities will be directed at the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-East Europe. They will contribute to improving national capacities to implement legally binding instruments and other regional norms and standards, and to resolving transboundary challenges. In this respect, ECE will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at both the regional and country levels. In addition, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, jointly executed with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will continue to be strengthened.

16.9 Building upon the complementarity of mandates, functions and areas of expertise, ECE will strengthen its cooperation with key partners in the region, in particular with UNDP, the European Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as with major subregional players. The regional coordination mechanism will be used as a main channel for promoting coherence and collaboration.

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Objective of the Organization: To safeguard the environment and health, improve environmental management throughout the region and further promote integration of environmental policies into sectoral policies

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe	(a) Increased number of countries applying the environmental indicators as defined in the ECE guidelines for the application of environmental indicators
(b) Strengthened implementation of ECE regional environmental commitments by member States	(b) Increased number of national reports received from countries indicating progress in implementing legally binding instruments

(c) Improved environmental performance in countries with economies in transition	(c) (i) Increased number of countries showing progress in environmental performance as measured by a set of indicators developed for environmental performance reviews (ii) Increased number of recommendations which have contributed to policy formulation and implementation, as reported by the reviewed countries

Strategy

16.10 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. In line with its objective, the subprogramme will emphasize a country needs-based approach in carrying out its activities. It will focus on building the capacity of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in environmental policy and management, including for the effective implementation of environmental legislation.

16.11 The subprogramme will continue to conduct the second round of environmental performance reviews of countries with economies in transition and assist them to implement the recommendations of their national environmental performance reviews. Furthermore, it will monitor the impact of such recommendations on policy formulation and implementation. The subprogramme will also assist to build capacity for environmental observation and reporting, which will contribute to provide timely and accurate environmental data to improve monitoring and assessment in these countries. The ECE guidelines on the application of environmental indicators will be further promoted for use in member States for environmental monitoring and assessment.

16.12 While taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will further promote the implementation of sustainable development in the ECE region and the outcomes of regional environment and sustainable development conferences, in particular the decisions taken by the Seventh Ministerial Conference, "Environment for Europe" (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011).

16.13 Actions will be taken to further integrate environment into other sectoral policies through intersectoral programmes and projects, including education for sustainable development, transport, health and environment as well as water and health. It will also improve cross-border environmental security in cooperation with the other regional organizations involved. Cross-sectoral work will also include the promotion of synergies and cooperation between the ECE legally binding instruments.

16.14 Emphasis will be placed on supporting the implementation of regional and subregional agreements and action programmes, as well as multi-stakeholder processes and partnerships resulting from, inter alia, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular by providing regional contributions to the programme cycle of the Commission.

Subprogramme 2
Transport

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate the international movement of persons and goods by inland transport modes and improve safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and security in the transport sector to levels that contribute effectively to sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened legal and regulatory framework for international land transport covering road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal transport, including transport infrastructure, related services, and border crossing facilitation, transport of dangerous goods, vehicle construction and other transport issues	(a) (i) Increased share of the legal instruments in force relative to the total number of agreed ECE legal instruments on transport (57 legal instruments) (ii) The number of new vehicle regulations and amendments (iii) The number of international legal instruments amended to reflect the latest revised edition of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(b) Greater geographical coverage and more effective implementation of the ECE legal instruments and recommendations on transport	(b) (i) Increased number of States parties to ECE legal instruments on transport (ii) Increased number of mechanisms in place for monitoring the implementation as agreed by member States
(c) Enhanced national capacity for the development of the pan-European and transcontinental transport infrastructure, in particular in the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, and for the introduction of transport facilitation measures, with special attention to landlocked transition economies and their neighbours	(c) (i) Increased number of States parties to four key agreements leading to enhanced coverage of the ECE region by transport infrastructure agreements (ii) Increased number of ECE countries participating in subregional projects leading to enhanced coverage of the ECE region by regional and subregional transport investment plans
(d) Strengthened capacity of the countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement relevant ECE legal instruments, norms and standards	(d) (i) Percentage of participants who considered workshops, seminars and other capacity-building activities as useful for their future work (ii) Increased number of countries having established road safety improvement targets

Strategy

16.15 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Transport Division. The subprogramme will focus on four broad functional areas: legal and regulatory framework for international land transport; improved law enforcement and regulatory framework; national capacity for the development of pan-European and transcontinental transport infrastructure as well as transport and trade facilitation; and capacity-building activities in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

16.16 The legal and regulatory framework for international land transport will include both new instruments and recommendations on transport issues as well as the updating and improvement of the 57 existing agreements and numerous regulations and recommendations. This will cover all modes of inland transport, including road, rail, inland waterway and intermodal, as well as special areas of interest, for example, vehicle construction and transport of dangerous goods. This will be achieved through consensus and agreement at ECE intergovernmental meetings on transport.

16.17 With regard to improved implementation and law enforcement, activities will be taken to promote new accessions to ECE legal instruments. Implementation will be promoted and surveyed through improved monitoring mechanisms for as many legal instruments as possible. To this end, the incorporation of certain ECE legal instruments (e.g., vehicle regulations and transport of dangerous goods) in the European Union Community *acquis* by the European Commission will continue to play an important role.

16.18 Emphasis will be placed on regional and subregional cooperation for enhancing national capacity for the development of transport infrastructure to support pan-European and Euro-Asian economic integration. In addition, development of Euro-Asian transport links will be promoted in cooperation with ESCAP and member States. Strengthening of transport links between Europe and Africa, and between Europe and the Middle East, including across the Mediterranean, will be promoted in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Transport and trade facilitation will focus on transit and border-crossing facilitation. In particular, it will be mainstreamed, inter alia, through the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, including pilots for the measurement of border-crossing performance. The special needs of landlocked transition economies and their transit neighbours will be serviced th gh technical assistance and analytical work.

16.19 Special attention will be given to further strengthening national capacity of countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to implement relevant ECE legal instruments, norms and standards through advisory missions, seminars and workshops. Capacity-building activities will be organized in cooperation with interested Governments and with the assistance of international experts and staff of the Division.

16.20 Cooperation and partnerships with the European Union and other international organizations active in the field of transport, such as the International Transport Forum, will be intensified. Cooperation will continue with the other regional commissions and with all partners in the United Nations Road Safety

Collaboration in order to improve global road safety and law enforcement in response to General Assembly resolutions. The public-private dialogue will be scaled up through closer cooperation with non-governmental organizations representing transport operators, relevant industries, transport users and consumers.

16.21 New multisectoral projects will be embarked on, with particular attention to improving energy efficiency in transport in response to global warming concerns, while existing ones (inter alia, on transport health and environment; trade and transport facilitation; global supply chains and competitiveness) will be strengthened.

16.22 The Division will continue to service the Economic and Social Council Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its subsidiary bodies.

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

Objective of the Organization: To improve the quality of official statistics at the national and international levels, and to ensure the coordination of international statistical activities undertaken in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Streamlined activity patterns of statistical work through coordination among international organizations and elimination of overlaps and gaps	(a) (i) Number of international organizations regularly reporting their activities to the Database of International Statistical Activities maintained by ECE and regularly reviewed by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (ii) Number of statistical areas reviewed in-depth by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians
(b) Improved availability in the ECE database of reliable, timely and comparable statistics, including gender disaggregated data for all countries in the ECE region	(b) (i) Increased number of statistical data time series available in the ECE database (ii) Percentage of users that express, through user surveys, satisfaction with the quality, coverage and timeliness of data contained in the ECE database
(c) Updated and newly developed standards, methodologies and practices for ensuring internationally comparable statistics	(c) (i) Number of new or revised international statistical standards and recommendations to which ECE has contributed in substance (ii) Number of statistical areas (according to the Database of International Statistical Activities classification) in which ECE undertakes substantive methodological work

(d) Improved assistance in the implementation of international standards and good practices in official statistics, in particular in less advanced countries of the ECE region, including on gender-sensitive indicators	(d) (i) Number of statistical areas for which technical assistance and advisory services were provided (ii) Increased percentage of national experts that express, through evaluation questionnaires, satisfaction with the relevance and quality of the ECE advisory services, training courses, and workshops

Strategy

16.23 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Statistical Division. Coordinating all international statistical activities undertaken in the region will remain a central component of the strategy under the subprogramme. The subprogramme will promote the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics within the international statistical community and provide advice to countries on institutional frameworks of official statistics.

16.24 Concerning methodological work, the subprogramme will focus on a selected number of subject areas, in particular those where ECE can provide an added value and complement the work undertaken by other international organizations. The work will concentrate on developing and updating methodological guidelines and leading practices, and on advising national statistical offices regarding existing United Nations standards and best practices and their implementation at the national level. Public access to all meeting documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations will provide the basis for transparency and accountability.

16.25 Technical cooperation activities will focus on key priorities, reflecting the needs of countries. They will be demand-driven and will focus on areas where United Nations standards exist, such as population censuses, indicators related to the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, prices, business statistics, gender disaggregated statistics and statistical data dissemination.

16.26 The data work undertaken by the subprogramme will respond to sustained internal and external demands. Data will be accessible to the public via the Internet. A quality framework will ensure the relevance, timeliness and user-friendliness of data dissemination.

16.27 Cooperation with the statistical services of other international organizations will continue in the form of joint meetings and working groups aimed at coordinating the development of methodologies and the preparation of standards, recommendations and the compilation of best practices, as well as by using modern tools of data sharing.

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Objective of the Organization: To promote a policy, financial and regulatory environment more conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities in the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge of good practices and policies on financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic growth, innovative development and higher competitiveness of enterprises and economic activities leading to the formulation of related ECE policy recommendations	(a) Number of policy recommendations resulting from the exchange of good practices and policy experience among member States
(b) Enhanced implementation of the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations	(b) Increased number of practical steps taken by Governments and other stakeholders to implement the policy recommendations
(c) Strengthened national capacity in countries with economies in transition to promote good practices and implement the aforementioned ECE policy recommendations	(c) Increased number of country-level follow-up activities resulting from training and other capacity-building activities

Strategy

16.28 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Economic Cooperation and Integration Division. In order to achieve its objective, the subprogramme will take up key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition. It will facilitate the application of experience gained, lessons learned and good practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development. Building on the normative work carried out within the subprogramme and reflecting the changing needs of member States, recommendations aimed at further improving a policy, as well as a financial and regulatory environment for economic development, investment and innovation, will be drawn up. Drawing on progress achieved during the period 2010-2011, policy advisory services and capacity-building activities to requesting countries will be organized on the basis of the related policy dialogue, exchange of experiences and good practices as well as guidelines and other policy-related documents.

16.29 Building, inter alia, on relevant work carried out by other organizations and institutions, as well as contributions mobilized from external experts, advisers and decision makers, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, an enhanced exchange of experience and policy debate among member States and other stakeholders will take place. Thematic teams of specialists and other groups of experts involving representatives of Governments, international organizations, business associations and other stakeholders will provide a platform for the exchange of national policy experience and the identification of good practices. Subsequently, member States are expected to apply these outputs in drawing up relevant policy recommendations, guidelines and other regulatory and normative

measures. The results of the subprogramme's work will be broadly disseminated to all interested stakeholders and will serve as the basis for technical cooperation activities organized by the secretariat in cooperation with member States, such as policy advisory services and capacity-building workshops, including within the framework of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

Objective of the Organization: To move towards a more sustainable development path for the production and use of energy and the fuller integration of the energy infrastructure and energy markets of the countries in the region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in the international dialogue between Governments and industry on sustainable energy development issues, in particular, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources	(a) (i) Increased percentage of participants in policy discussions, as well as discussions on technical matters, who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making (ii) Increased percentage of respondents to a web-based survey who find ECE information, technical and policy-oriented reports on sustainable energy issues very useful
(b) Progress in addressing energy conservation and efficiency issues across the ECE region, especially those leading to a reduction in energy-related environmental impacts, including progress in the formation of energy efficiency markets in economies in transition	(b) (i) Increased number of energy efficiency investment projects developed under the ECE energy efficiency 21 project that have been approved for financing in economies in transition (ii) Increased percentage of participants in policy discussions who evaluate them as being useful for decision-making
(c) Further extension and implementation of ECE recommendations/guidelines and instruments for sustainable energy development, in particular, extension and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources	(c) (i) Increased number of professional organizations and international standard-setting organizations supporting the further development and implementation of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources, including as a basis for financial reporting standards for extractive activities

	(ii) Increased number of countries expressing their intent to apply the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources in their fossil energy and uranium resources management

Strategy

16.30 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Energy Division. The subprogramme will promote public-private sector cooperation between Governments, energy industries, the financial community and relevant international organizations to foster sustainable energy development in member States. It will assist countries with economies in transition to integrate their energy economies and infrastructure more fully in the region and the global economy, increase energy security for importing and exporting countries alike, reduce greenhouse gas emissions through self-financing mechanisms for trading carbon emissions and coal mine methane, enhance the performance of energy industries and contribute to the long-term supply of fossil fuels through the global adoption of a classification standard for energy reserves and resources.

16.31 While taking into account the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme is designed to promote a sustainable energy development strategy for the ECE region, in particular, the mitigation of energy security risks, through the pursuit of sustainable energy policies in the short, medium and long terms. ECE will promote well-balanced energy network systems across the region tailored to optimize operating efficiencies and overall regional cooperation and sustained improvements in energy efficiency. The subprogramme will support the development of self-financing projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in economies in transition for submission to public-private sector investment funds associated with its programme of work. It will promote projects for gas infrastructure and transportation networks, with particular attention to the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. In order to promote self-financing energy efficiency improvements at a global level, ECE will develop a more systematic exchange of experiences on capacity-building, policy reforms and investment project finance among countries of other regions through their United Nations regional commissions. In the context of post-European Union enlargement, the subprogramme will assist member States with the integration of their energy economies through the compatibility of the legal, regulatory and policy measures, including business practices and the development of classification systems and guidelines, and to conduct studies on natural gas markets.

16.32 ECE will continue to coordinate its activities with other international organizations to ensure the efficient use of resources and avoid duplication. The extrabudgetary resources usually attracted by sustainable energy activities will reinforce the present structure of intergovernmental dialogue. While activities begin with policy dialogue, the subprogramme allows for policy recommendations to be implemented through international norms, standards, training programmes, technical assistance and the preparation of investment projects.

Subprogramme 6
Trade

Objective of the Organization: To facilitate trade and trade-related economic cooperation among countries of the ECE region and with the rest of the world

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business	(a) (i) The number of new and/or revised ECE recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business agreed upon by member States
	(ii) The number of downloads of key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use
	(iii) The number of countries in which ECE took action in response to their requests for assistance in the promotion and implementation of trade facilitation and electronic business instruments
(b) Adoption by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation	(b) The number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation agreed upon by member States
(c) Adoption and increased implementation by member States of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards	(c) (i) The number of new or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce agreed upon by member States
	(ii) The cumulative total number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards in member States (total number of standards multiplied by total number of countries implementing them)
	(iii) The number of downloads of recommendations and standards on agricultural produce from the ECE Internet site, as a proxy for their use

Strategy

16.33 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme supports Millennium Development Goal 8 by contributing to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading system, especially in the less economically developed and landlocked countries of the ECE region. It also takes into account the

importance accorded to trade as a key vehicle for economic growth, elimination of poverty and greater regional cooperation and stability in other major United Nations documents.

16.34 The subprogramme will aim at reducing barriers to trade caused by differences in trade procedures, standards and documents as well as differences in regulatory approaches and standards for manufactured and agricultural products that hamper market access. More concretely, it will develop and promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective processes for global commerce through the development and maintenance of international trade facilitation instruments, especially to support international supply chains and the integration of countries into the global economy. These instruments include global standards and best practices for moving from paper-based to automated electronic processes and for the harmonization and simplification of business practices used in international trade;

(b) A predictable, transparent and harmonized regulatory environment for commerce and business through strengthening of the convergence of regulations as well as through the promotion of international standards and best practices in areas of regulatory cooperation, conformity assessment and market surveillance;

(c) Trade in agricultural produce through the development of up-to-date agricultural quality standards used by Governments for regulatory purposes and the private sector, as well as through explanatory brochures based on these standards in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables.

16.35 The subprogramme will also achieve its objectives by supporting Governments, with a special emphasis on the less economically developed and landlocked countries of the region, in the national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations, including their integration into national and regional trade facilitation strategies, trade policy and regulatory regimes.

16.36 The subprogramme will draw on the work of its intergovernmental bodies and expert groups, and will reinforce cooperation with principal partners, which include the World Trade Organization, the International Organization for Standardization, the World Customs Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Bank for International Settlements, the World Bank, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, other United Nations regional commissions and a wide variety of private sector organizations.

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the forest sector and its contribution to sustainable development throughout the ECE region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding, based on better monitoring of sustainable forest management, encompassing (i) Policies and institutions (ii) Forest resources (iii) Sound use of wood, for material and energy purposes, in domestic and export markets (iv) The outlook for the sector in a broader, cross-sectoral context	(a) (i) Increased percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management (ii) Increased percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory data on quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management (iii) Percentage of ECE countries able to provide satisfactory responses to the ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire (which monitors the sound use of wood) (iv) Percentage of policymakers and other stakeholders who regard selected policy forums and workshops as useful
(b) Increased capacity of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-East Europe to achieve sustainable forest management at the national level	(b) Percentage of participants having used the information provided at capacity-building activities

Strategy

16.37 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Timber Section of the Trade and Timber Division. The subprogramme will aim at developing and applying analytical and monitoring tools, both on policy and on developments on the ground, collecting, validating and disseminating information and analysis, as well as stimulating the exchange of experience, best practices and joint efforts to measure progress. In addition, the subprogramme will provide a platform for topical discussions, taking into account the changing policy environment, notably as regards climate change and bioenergy. It will promote the role of forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

16.38 The subprogramme will promote the sustainable management of forests and the sound and legal use of forest products, for raw material and energy as well as forest services, based on appropriate policies and institutions. Priorities for 2012-2013 will be guided by the outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, as well as the continued efforts to address climate

change, as requested by member States and stakeholders through the strategic review conducted in 2008.

16.39 While all countries benefit from international cooperation through the subprogramme, special attention will be paid to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Mediterranean region to implement sustainable forest management through capacity-building activities and by promoting their involvement in international activities in the region.

16.40 As part of the strategy to implement the subprogramme, ECE will carry out its work in cooperation with FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and provide regional input to the United Nations Forum on Forests and the FAO Committee on Forestry.

16.41 To support forest management, including the use of wood and forest products that is sustainable from the ecological, economic and social perspectives, it is necessary to maintain a good balance among those three aspects, based on a strong consensus among all stakeholders about goals and methods, as well as to ensure that the strategy is well integrated into the policy framework of other sectors (the cross-sectoral approach). Achieving sustainable forest management is primarily a sovereign national responsibility. However, regional international cooperation and interregional cooperation, through the timber and forestry subprogramme and its partners, will contribute by developing and disseminating concepts and information, through communication, sharing experience and defining standard measurement tools (indicators) for sustainable forest management. At the same time, the impact of global developments will be taken into account at the regional level.

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

Objective of the Organization: To improve the housing, urban and land governance in the region as well as the necessary knowledge base on population issues, strengthening the formulation and implementation of policies, enhancing social cohesion and developing capacities at the national and local levels

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved capacity for policy formulation and implementation in housing, planning and land administration in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and South-Eastern Europe	(a) (i) Increase in the number of countries that are engaged in an ECE results-oriented assessment of their housing policies and land administration systems (ii) Increase in the number of countries that report to have taken measures to improve housing policies and land management practices
(b) Strengthened implementation by countries of ECE guidelines on housing and land management, including on energy efficiency, informal settlements, transparency in land and real estate markets and on improved safety in buildings	(b) Increase in the number of countries that report to have taken measures to implement ECE guidelines

(c) Enhanced national policy formulation on population ageing and intergenerational and gender relations, to meet the challenges of demographic change	(c) Increase in the number of countries that have adjusted their policies or introduced new measures in implementing the ECE Regional Strategy on Ageing

Strategy

16.42 The responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Environment, Housing and Land Management Division. The subprogramme will aim at promoting the implementation of the ECE strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century and the Ministerial Declaration on Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the ECE Region. It will promote the development of affordable housing, further addressing effective management of multifamily housing estates linked to energy efficiency in housing, transparency in real estate markets as well as to improved land administration and spatial planning.

16.43 In order to contribute to the efficient and transparent governance and improvement of the urban environment, continued efforts will be made to analyse and review the existing housing situation, including: (a) maintenance, renewal and new construction, (b) energy efficiency measures and safety in buildings, and (c) legislation and housing finance. This process will lead to policy recommendations and related capacity-building activities. In addition, the subprogramme will promote the use by member States of ECE guidance in the areas of housing, including informal settlements, energy efficiency and sound real estate markets. The upgrade of land and real estate systems will be further supported in order to provide secure ownership in land, investment and other private and public rights in real estate. Regional model programmes and pilot projects as well as public-private partnerships will be encouraged.

16.44 The integration of housing policy with spatial planning, land administration, population and environmental policy will be strengthened. Such cross-sectoral issues as the energy efficiency of the housing sector and the housing needs of the low income segment of society will be addressed.

16.45 The population component of the subprogramme will promote the implementation of the ECE Regional Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing to meet the challenges arising from demographic change and release the unused potential embedded in some population groups, in particular, older persons. To improve evidence-based policymaking and monitor implementation in member States, it will coordinate data collection and policy oriented research on population ageing, intergenerational and gender relations, family and fertility. Good policy practices will be exchanged and national capacities for policy formulation in response to demographic change will be developed.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/144	Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
57/270 B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/210	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
62/208	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
63/11	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
63/14	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe
63/15	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community
63/239	Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus
63/281	Climate change and its possible security implications
64/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
64/193	Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence
64/217	Women in development
64/236	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

2006/14	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2006/38	Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission
2009/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council
2009/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/224	Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

E/ECE/1434/Rev.1	Work Plan on ECE Reform
A (63)	The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe

Subprogramme 1
Environment

General Assembly resolutions

58/217	International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
59/228	Activities undertaken during the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, preparations for the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61	Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment
ECE/AC.21/2009/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its third session

Subprogramme 2
Transport

General Assembly resolutions

58/9	Global road safety crisis
58/201	Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
63/2	Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries
64/214	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of Landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
64/255	Improving global road safety

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1999/65	Reconfiguration of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
2009/11	Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar
2009/19	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.21/2002/8	Declaration on the establishment of a Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) adopted by the Second High-level Meeting on Transport, Environment and Health
ECE/AC.21/2009/2	Report of the High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment on its Third session

Subprogramme 3
Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

63/155	Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
63/225	International migration and development
64/132	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

C (47)	The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in the Region of the Economic Commission of Europe

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

General Assembly resolutions

63/152	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
63/303	Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development
64/214	Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation
64/223	Towards global partnerships

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2007/30 Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Subprogramme 5
Sustainable energy

General Assembly resolutions

64/206 Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2003/61 Future programme, organization and methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/226 United Nations International Framework Classification for Energy Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities

2004/233 United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources

Subprogramme 6
Trade

General Assembly resolutions

60/252 World Summit on the Information Society

63/2 Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

64/188 International trade and development

64/214 Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1991/76 Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation

2004/64	International Conference on Financing for Development
2006/46	Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Economic and Social Council decisions

1997/225	Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard"

Subprogramme 7
Timber and forestry

General Assembly resolutions

54/218	Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly
61/193	International Year of Forests, 2011
62/98	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Subprogramme 8
Housing, land management and population

General Assembly resolutions

57/275	Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
64/132	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
64/207	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

United Nations Commission on Population and Development resolutions

2004/2	Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
2009/1	The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

Commission for Social Development resolution

47/3 (2009)	First review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Economic Commission for Europe decisions

ECE/AC.23/2002/2/Rev.6	Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
ECE/AC.30/2007/6	Leon Ministerial Declaration "A Society for all Ages: Challenges and Opportunities"
ECE/HBP/120	Strategy for a sustainable quality of life in human settlements in the twenty-first century, endorsed at a ministerial meeting in 2000
ECE/HBP/142/Add.1	Ministerial Declaration on "Social and Economic Challenges in Distressed Urban Areas in the UNECE Region", adopted in 2006